

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 10 and 14 through 16 are currently pending in the application. Claims 14 through 16 have been allowed. Claims 1 through 10 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Number 6,011,936 (hereinafter Kaneko) in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,205, 297 (hereinafter Tachibana). This combination of references is improper and the rejection of these claims should be overturned.

Kaneko discloses a method of recovering media sheets from a jammed image forming apparatus. After detecting the time and location of a paper jam and the location of a media sheet, the media sheet is moved along a media path until it reaches an optimum stop position. Kaneko specifically discloses prior art devices that stop the media sheet immediately along the paper path once a jam is detected (Col. 1, lines 11-16). However, Kaneko explains disadvantages of immediately stopping the sheet including tearing the sheet during removal, and making sheet removal more difficult (Col. 1, lines 23-32).

Tachibana discloses an image forming apparatus that forms images on media sheets moving along a media path. The media sheets may be stopped immediately along the media path upon the occurrence of a paper jam.

The rejection combines Kaneko that teaches moving the sheet a distance after detecting a jam, with Tachibana that teaches immediately stopping the sheet upon detecting a jam. These two references disclose completely opposite ways of handling a media sheet after detecting a jam. Therefore, not only is there no motivation to combine

these two references, there is explicit teaching not to combine these two references.

Therefore, the rejections based on this combination are improper and claims 1 through 10 are not obvious.

For the foregoing reasons it is respectfully urged that the present application is in condition for allowance and notice to such effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D.D. Kalish', is written over a horizontal line.

David D. Kalish
Registration No.: 42,706

Dated: January 19, 2006

P.O. Box 5
Raleigh, NC 27602
Telephone: (919) 854-1844
Facsimile: (919) 854-2084